

Renovation plans for 6  
barrios... *pg 3*

851 less fortunate kids now  
have a better chance! *pg 3*

December is AIDS  
awareness month



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Wednesday, December 22, 2010

# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Tourism prospects for 2011 very favorable!



Minister of Tourism, Labor and Transport, Otmar Oduber

ORANJESTAD -- Tourism figures up to December shows a growth of about 2.4% in tourism arrivals, while for hotel occupancy there is an increase of 2.7%. A comparison of the Revpar, revenue per room, of 2010

with that of 2008 (the best tourism year) shows a whopping increase of 7.8%. The Tax Office also reported an increase in room tax receipts of 14%!

These figures certainly are impressive and positive for Aruba and Minister of Tourism, Otmar Oduber is very pleased. He expressed much praise for the work of his staff and the various departments along with the private sector who together contributed to making this a successful year for tourism.

The tourism outlook for 2011 appears even more promising. This, in part because of the improved relationships with our different strategic partners. Among

those are the KLM and the Carnival Cruise organization.

Next year the Aruba Tourism Association (ATA) will also take on its new status – sui generis – which for 18 years no government succeeded in realizing. ATA sui generis will be a more independent entity, far removed from political influences, and well capable of implementing the tourism vision of the government for Aruba.

The goal of 2011 is to achieve, for the first time, a strategic plan, a master plan for tourism; and to lay the foundation for Aruba's tourism for the next 25 years. We will ensure that every decision taken, whether that is

with respect to infrastructure, education, expatriates, hotel rooms, amount of taxis, jobs, etc. that hereon forward will be in keeping with the kind of tourism we want for Aruba.

The minister assured the press that Aruba's tourism master plan will be the example for the region, showing how we are planning for the next 20 years how we want Aruba to be.

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## All Government departments are closed on Dec. 24 and 31

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba government announces that in connection with the ATV days and holidays, all government departments will be closed for the general public on December 24th, Christmas Eve, and December 31st, New Year's Eve.

Due to vacations of some of the employees, some departments will close before the above mentioned date.

The first day of work for the year 2011 is Monday, January 3rd.

The Government wishes its public employees and all the community of Aruba a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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## Bulgaria, Romania blocked from joining Schengen

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) - France and Germany decided yesterday to block Bulgaria and Romania from joining Europe's borderless 25-nation Schengen area next year, a move denounced by the Romanian president as discriminatory.

French Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux and German counterpart Thomas de Maiziere told European home affairs commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem in a letter that it was "premature" to let them enter the passport-free travel area in March 2011.

The ministers said a decision on the applications would be made once the two former communist bloc nations make "irreversible progress" in the fight against corruption and organised crime, according to a copy of the letter seen by AFP.

Romanian President Traian Basescu slammed the Franco-German move as "an act of

discrimination."

Bulgaria's foreign ministry said the country would do its "utmost" to ease any doubts about its readiness to join, "including in the areas of the judicial system and society as a whole."

The Schengen area allows more than 400 million citizens to travel across a territory that ranges from Greece to Finland, and Portugal to Poland, without having to pull out a passport.

The area includes 22 of the European Union's 27 members plus Iceland, Switzerland and Norway.

Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007. By choice, EU members Britain

and Ireland have not joined the travel zone while Cyprus has applied to enter Schengen.

Experts from EU states who visited Romania and Bulgaria will present a report in January that will be used by governments to make a decision.

Allowing a country to join Schengen must be agreed by members states by unanimity, meaning that France and Germany have veto power over the applications.

The decision to block the entry of Romania and Bulgaria follows a summer row over France's deportation of Roma migrants from the two eastern European nations, although the issue was not cited as a reason for the Schengen veto.

## Second British royal wedding announced

LONDON, England (AFP) - Queen Elizabeth II's eldest grand-daughter Zara Phillips is to wed her rugby-playing boyfriend Mike Tindall, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday, in a marriage of world-beating sports stars.

Setting up the prospect of two royal weddings in 2011, the announcement comes a month after her cousin Prince William, the second in line to the throne, revealed his engagement to university sweetheart Kate Middleton.

Phillips, 29, the daughter of the queen's only daughter Princess Anne, is an eventing world champion and 12th in line to the throne.

Tindall, 32, who played in England's 2003 World Cup-winning team, proposed on Monday at their home in Cheltenham, southwest England, the palace said.

The couple have been together for seven years and have largely kept their relationship out of the spotlight. They are yet to set a wedding date.

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip were "delighted with the news."

While William and his fiancée are to tie the knot at Westminster Abbey on April 29, Phillips' wedding will be a more low-key event

## Europe takes battle on human traffic to cyberspace

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) - Europe turned to the Internet yesterday in a bid to clamp down on human trafficking, launching a website to coordinate prosecution, prevention and protection of victims of a "horrific" crime.

"Modern slavery is still a practice in the European Union," said Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem on launching <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking>, to be overseen by a newly-named EU anti-trafficking coordinator.

The moves came days after the European Parliament adopted a range of measures aimed at harmonising and hardening legislation on human trafficking across the EU.

"This is the first time we have a good and very ambitious directive, a new coordinator, a website. A few years ago this was not even on the agenda," Malmstroem said.

The parliamentary directive will give member states -- bar Britain and Denmark -- two years to comply with new rules toughening up penalties for traffickers in human beings, who now can face up to 10 years in prison.

With several hundred thousand people believed to be trafficked into the EU or within the EU each year, the measures include trafficking in people for illegal adoption, forced marriages, begging, organs, sexual exploitation or labour exploitation.

An estimated 40 percent of the victims, mainly women and girls, are exploited for prostitution, and around a third for menial labour.

Lawmakers have said the trafficking business is highly lucrative, second-only in illegal activity to the weapons trade -- more even than drugs -- with the risk for people involved "fairly low" until now.



**PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti --** Photo shows children playing as they wait for adoption by parents that will return with them to France in Port-au-Prince. France has sent an aircraft to Haiti yesterday to fetch a group of Haitian children adopted by French families, almost a year after an earthquake devastated the island, the French government said. (AFP PHOTO)

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# Announcement

We hereby announce the closure of the RBTT Boulevard Branch, L.G. Smith Boulevard 66, effective January 31, 2011.

The closure of the Boulevard Branch is driven by pursuit of one-stop service offerings with the convenience and ease of getting all your banking needs at a single location. We recommend you to use our Head Office branch located at Italiëstraat 36, Oranjestad, as this branch is spacious and offers ample parking space.

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## 851 Less Fortunate Kids Now Have a Better Chance!

ORANJESTAD --Early yesterday Prime Minister Eman and Minister of Social Affairs, Mrs. Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer signed the government decree to allocate the so-called "kinder-toeslag" (child allowance) for parents on welfare.

The Prime Minister reported that since the beginning of the year the welfare support was increased by 25%, because of the 2360 persons needing this support, of which 1049 are individuals with a handicap and 1241 who for one reason or the



Prime Minister Eman and Minister of Social Affairs, Mrs. Michelle Winklaar-Hooyboer signing the government decree.

other are unable to be employed. This group of persons was receiving the lowest amount of welfare allowance, hence the reason for increasing it with 25% and with a child support of Afls. 100 for each child in the family.

The Prime Minister praised the minister of Social Affairs for her interest and dedication to the material and immaterial aspects of the social situations of our community. According to Eman, the most vulnerable groups in our community were the first to be given attention and assistance from the government.

The decree signed yesterday will take effect as of January 1st, 2011. Eman

continued to indicate that in keeping with the intention to introduce the obligatory education law for every one less than 18 years of age, it is obligatory that the government exercise responsibility to assist families who may not have the necessary resources to send their children to school adequately. The new measure, according to the Prime Minister is one of the commitments coming out of the recently held National Social Dialogue. This law, he says lays the basis for a more fair Aruba. At the beginning of 2011 some 851 children will have a better chance to purchase needed clothing and food and be able to go to school.

## Renovation Plans for 6 Barrios Ready For Public Tender

ORANJESTAD -- The government's plans for the renovation of our many barrios (districts) are in full swing.

The barrios to be renovated are known and FCCA (Foundation for Social Housing) are placing these plans for public bidding so the work can begin in earnest.

The government's intention is to create more pleasant circumstances in which families can flourish and develop in the most positive sense in the barrios.

The work in these barrios has already begun.

There are six big restructuring projects taking place in different barrios, which are already cleared for public bidding at FCCA.

Some of these plans include adequate street lighting, asphaltting of roads, creating recreational areas, and an office for special assistance in the barrios.

The government is convinced that these plans will create a more pleasant living condition and contribute to an integral form of addressing the social problems in the community.

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## Playa Linda Beach Resort marks the holidays with a celebration of 'employees' accomplishments



Department of the year: Accounting



Employee of the year Lucio Pieter with GM Jan van Nes



The employees of the Playa Linda Beach Resort enjoyed a recent holiday celebration at the Aruba Surfside Marina, complete with dinner, dancing and the recognition of its most outstanding employees.

Playa Linda General Manager Jan van Nes congratulated the entire staff on its contributions to the success of the popular Palm Beach-based timeshare resort, especially in light of the additional challenges brought by renovation work. He provided additional praise to this year's standouts, which included: Employee of the Year Lucio Pieter, with the Front Office; Supervisor of the Year Hubert Martis, Beach Concierge, and Star Award

winner, Armando Barroso. For their teamwork as well as excellence in job performance, the Accounting Department was named the "Department of the Year."

Playa Linda Cooperative Association Board Member Jack Masser, together with his wife Pat, who was also present at the celebration, spoke on behalf of all the resort's timeshare owners and guests, expressing words of appreciation for the excellent work the staff accomplishes all year long.

The high spirits of the evening continued into the late night hours with dancing to a live band and toasts to continued camaraderie and accomplishments in 2011.

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## \$11-million Christmas tree runs into trouble

ABU DHABI (AFP) – A luxury hotel in Abu Dhabi which unveiled a Christmas tree decorated with jewels valued at 11 million dollars has decided to put the record straight against criticism of having gone over the top.

The Emirates Palace hotel said it regretted "attempts to overload the tradition followed by most hotels in the country," it said, in a statement quoted in Gulf News. "Putting the Christmas tree... is a tradition meant to share in celebrating occasions guests hold while they are away from their home countries and families," said the hotel in the United Arab Emirates capital.

Under a headline of "Trouble over 11 million dollar Christmas tree," Gulf News said the hotel stressed this was "within the framework of the UAE's policy which is based on the values of openness and tolerance."

Emirates Palace stressed

that the jewels were on loan from an Abu Dhabi gallery which had paid all the costs of making and decorating the tree. Emirates Palace hotel general manager Hans Olbertz said the tree, which he described as the "most expensive Christmas tree ever," will probably be an

entry into the Guinness book of world records.

the hotel in the oil-rich Gulf emirate where the local population is Muslim, bills itself as a seven-star establishment and has a package for a week-long stay priced at one million dollars.

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## Aruba is proud of superlative student Silviennne



On Friday, December 17, Silviennne Rudienne Krosendijk graduated from East Carolina University where she earned a Masters of Science in Sports and Exercise Degree.



She maintained a perfect Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0

Silviennne's proud parents together with her sister and godchild flew over to Greenville, North Carolina to be with her on this joyous occasion and wish her all the best.

Photo shows Silviennne with her family after the graduation ceremony.

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## Sci-Tech

# Biting winters driven by global warming: scientists

PARIS (AFP) - Counter-intuitive but true, say scientists: a string of freezing European winters scattered over the last decade has been driven in large part by global warming.

The culprit, according to a new study, is the Arctic's receding surface ice, which at current rates of decline could to disappear entirely during summer months by century's end.

The mechanism uncovered triples the chances that future winters in Europe and north Asia will be similarly inclement, the study reports.

Bitingly cold weather wreaked havoc across Europe in the winter months of 2005-2006, dumping snow in southern Spain and plunging eastern Europe and Russia into an unusually -- and deadly -- deep freeze.

Another sustained cold streak in 2009-2010, gave Britain its coldest winter in 14 years, and wreaked transportation havoc across the continent. This year seems poised to deliver a repeat performance.



At first glance, this flurry of frostiness would seem to be at odds with standard climate change scenarios in which Earth's temperature steadily rises, possibly by as much as five or six degrees Celsius (9.0 to 10.8 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100.

Climate sceptics who question the gravity of global warming or that humans are to blame point to the deep chills as confirmation of their doubts.

Such assertions, counter scientists, mistakenly conflate the long-term patterns of climate with the short-term

vagaries of weather, and ignore regional variation in climate change impacts.

New research, however, goes further, showing that global warming has actually contributed to Europe's winter blues.

Rising temperatures in the Arctic -- increasing at two to three times the global average -- have peeled back the region's floating ice cover by 20 percent over the last three decades.

This has allowed more of the Sun's radiative force to be absorbed by dark-blue sea rather than bounced back into

space by reflective ice and snow, accelerating the warming process.

More critically for weather patterns, it has also created a massive source of heat during the winter months.

"Say the ocean is at zero degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit)," said Stefan Rahmstorf, a climate scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

"That is a lot warmer than the overlying air in the polar area in winter, so you get a major heat flow heating up the atmosphere from below which you don't have when it is covered by ice. That's a massive change," he told AFP in an interview.

The result, according to a modelling study published earlier this month the Journal of Geophysical Research, is a strong high-pressure system over the newly-exposed sea which brings cold polar air, swirling counter-clockwise, into Europe.

"Recent severe winters

like last year's or the one of 2005-2006 do not conflict with the global warming picture, but rather supplement it," explained Vladimir Petoukhov, lead author of the study and a physicist at the Potsdam Institute.

"These anomalies could triple the probability of cold winter extremes in Europe and north Asia," he said.

The researchers created a computer model simulating the impact on weather patterns of a gradual reduction of winter ice cover in the Barents-Kara Sea, north of Scandinavia.

Other possible explanations for uncommonly cold winters -- reduced Sun activity or changes in the Gulf Stream -- "tend to exaggerate their effect," Petoukhov said.

He also points out that during the freezing 2005-2006 winter, when temperatures averaged 10 C below normal in Siberia, there were no unusual variations in the north Atlantic oscillation, another putative cause.



## Health &amp; Living

## Study: Autistic children lack visual skills

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Autistic children have difficulty finding things such as shoes in a bedroom or apples at a supermarket, impairing their ability to lead normal lives, according to a new study.

Researchers at the University of Bristol said that by testing the ability to carry out real-life tasks they had challenged previous findings that autistic children have enhanced visual searching skills.

"This new research indicates that children with autism are unable to search effectively for objects in real-life situations -- a skill that is essential for achieving independence in adulthood," they said in a statement.

The researchers told 40 children, half of whom were autistic, to search for targets in a test room in an experiment they said mirrored daily life better than previous tests that used computers or table-top tasks.

"Critically, these targets appeared more on one side of the room than the other," they said, which allowed them to test previous conclusions that autistic children are quicker to pick up on patterns in a system.

"A contemporary theory of autism (systematizing) states

that these children are more sensitive to regularities within a system, (for example, prime numbers, computer programs and train timetables)," it said.

"Surprisingly, more 'systematic' behavior was not observed in this test; children with autism were less efficient and more chaotic in their search."

The findings could help explain why autistic children are often unable to complete simple tasks like finding their favorite animal at the zoo, the researchers said.

"The ability to work effectively and systematically in these kind of tasks mirrors everyday behaviors that allow us to function as independent adults," said Josie Briscoe, one of the authors of the report.

"This research offers an exciting opportunity to explore underlying skills that could help people with autism achieve independence."

The study will appear in the US "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" PNAS December 21-25 issue.

An estimated 1.5 million Americans suffer from autism, a disability that affects one's ability to communicate and interact with others and typically appears during the first three years of life.

## 27 charged in Panama poisoning

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AFP) — Twenty seven people have been charged in Panama in the 2006 mass poisoning that left 168 dead due to contaminated medicinal syrup, prosecutors said.

"So far there are 27 defendants," prosecutor Dimas Guevara, who was to make the case before country's supreme court.

The medicines, contaminated with diethylene glycol, an industrial solvent used for automobile brake fluid and antifreeze -- and imported from

China -- left hundreds sickened.

While authorities acknowledge 168 people dead, a group representing the victims claims the figure is much higher.

"We are fighting for real justice, for this not to happen again anywhere in the world," Gabriel Pascual, head of the victims' group, told AFP.

Up to this point the only person arrested had been the legal representative of Panama's Social Security Fund that distributed the drug.



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## Study: Brain scans indicate when dyslexics will read

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A simple brain scan may predict when youngsters with dyslexia will learn to read, a new study said.

The brain disorder makes it difficult for even very bright children to learn how to read and can be a lifelong source of frustration.

But according to research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS), brain scans can predict the improvement of teenagers' reading skills, with up to 90 percent accuracy.

"This study takes an important step toward realizing the potential benefits of combining neuroscience and education research by showing how brain scanning measures are sensitive to individual differences that predict educationally relevant outcomes," said Bruce



McCandliss, one of the lead authors of the study and a professor at Vanderbilt University.

The research found brain scan results to be significantly more accurate in predicting how well a dyslexic child ultimately reads than standardized reading tests or the child's behavior.

"This approach opens up a

new vantage point on the question of how children with dyslexia differ from one another in ways that translate into meaningful differences two to three years down the line," McCandliss said.

He said the research raises the prospect of a future test that could help match dyslexic students with the most effective treatments.

"Such insights may be crucial for new educational research on how to best meet the individual needs of struggling readers," he said.

The research was primarily conducted by experts at the Stanford University School of Medicine, with help from researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and the University of York in the United Kingdom.

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## Snowbound German airport sends in the clowns

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – With travellers frazzled by hundreds of flight cancellations, Germany's busiest airport has hired clowns to help them and their children pass the hours.

"Four clowns are performing in the terminal halls," the spokeswoman for Frankfurt's international airport told AFP.

"We came up with the idea for the kids, who are finding the delays particularly trying."

The clowns, outfitted in brightly coloured costumes and some parading on stilts,



started working over the weekend, when heavy snowfall led to hundreds of flights being scrapped amid chaos in the Eu-

ropean air traffic network.

Fights broke out at the airport among stressed-out holiday travellers according to press reports, leading police to send in reinforcements.

More than 1,000 stranded passengers had to spend the night of this week-end at the airport, where camp beds were set up in the terminals.

About half of Frankfurt's scheduled 1,329 flights were grounded, mainly because other airports around Europe were closed due to extreme winter weather.

Over 340 flights were axed.

## Anonymous thief pays for stolen hammer, decades later

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania – An anonymous thief sent an envelope of cash to a family-owned supply store in western Pennsylvania to pay for a hammer stolen decades ago, one of the store owners said.

The cash arrived at Central Contractors Supply Co. in Johnstown, Pa., with a handwritten note saying the hammer was stolen 25 to 30 years ago, said Lynne Gramling, who owns the store with her father.

"I knew it was wrong, but I did it anyway. Enclosed is \$45 to cover the hammer plus a little extra for interest," said the unsigned letter dated December 6. "I'm sorry I stole it, but



have changed my ways."

While plenty of merchandise has disappeared since the family bought the store some 50 years ago, this is the first time anyone has paid for a stolen item, Gramling said.

Gramling took the money to a nearby shopping mall, where her father was volunteering as a Salvation Army bell ringer.

"I went up and dropped the money in his kettle," she said, adding that the money was "really a lot more than a hammer would cost."

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10.5oz steak, served with gravy sauce, mashed potatoes and mixed greens.

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## Aruba welcomes new station Blizz 101.7, just in time for holiday listening



Ivan and DJ and Marketing Manager Alexis Werleman

Noted music aficionado and master of the microphone, DJ Ivan Kelie, Jr. was proud to welcome colleagues and the community to the official opening of his own radio station, Blizz 101.7 FM on Friday, December 17. Spanking new contemporary digs in the Bright Bakery building in Pedra Plat house the latest state of art recording, mixing and broadcast equipment to deliver music and news on your dial seven days a week.

Ivan will continue his

beloved show of Classic Rock twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., He is joined by popular DJ Renzo Muscariello, who will be broadcasting daily the top 40 Billboard hits Monday through Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., and DJ Reggie of ArubaSalsa will fill in the 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. slot on alternate days from Ivan with the salsa and Latin sounds so popular with local audiences.

Marketing Manager Alexis Werleman will dominate the



Principal DJ Renzo Muscariello

morning hours from 10:00 a.m. until noon, following famous Melvin Garcia, who will start the day.

Renzo revealed they al-



Station Manager and DJ Ivan Kelie Jr proudly shows off state of the art equipment

ready have scheduled as guests internationally famous DJ's who are visiting the island, and Ivan, with over 32 years in the business, has put

together a dedicated team who are on the air, "for the love of the music."

by Rosalie Klein



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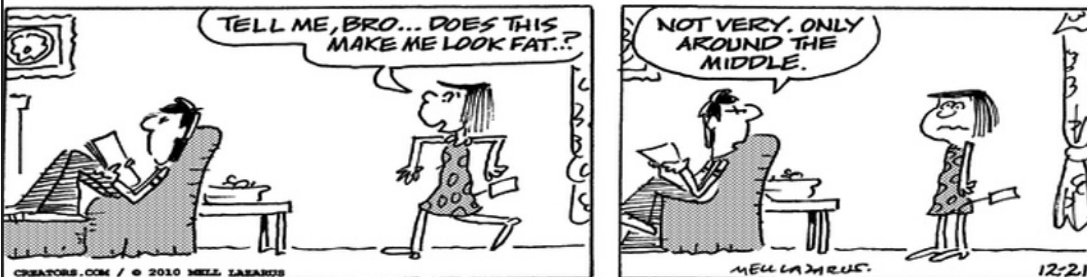


## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



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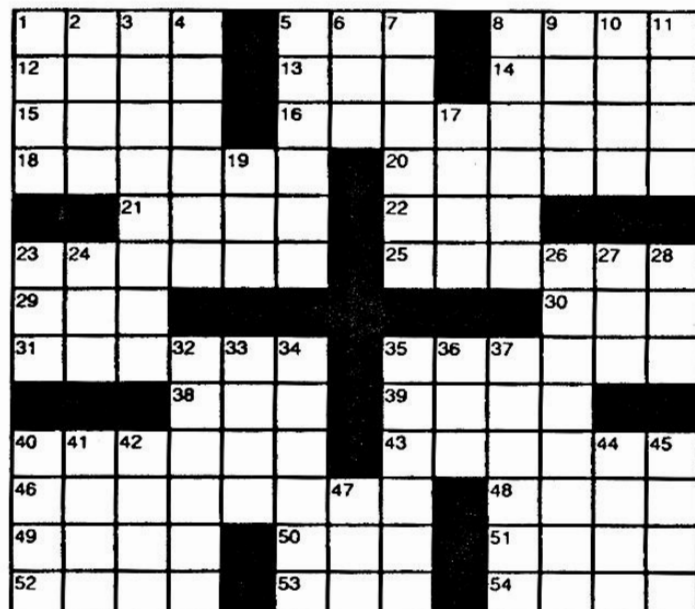
## ACROSS

1. Tepid
5. Child
8. Ms. Evans
12. Region
13. Fuss
14. Group of poems
15. Seasoning
16. Lees
18. Talks idly
20. Work hard
21. Part of TV
22. Roman household god
23. Kind of staircase
25. Power
29. Gold: Sp.
30. Hurry
31. "Love Me \_\_\_"
35. Aptitude
38. Pierre's pal
39. Aid in crime
40. Hot
43. Distant
46. Not easily forgotten
48. Of the mouth

49. Heraldry band
50. By birth
51. East Indian palm
52. Consumer
53. "I \_\_\_ Rhythm"
54. Scrutinize

## DOWN

1. Stinging insect
2. Sandarac tree
3. Link
4. Mind over
5. Ornamented cord
6. "\_\_\_ to Joy"
7. Walk unsteadily
8. Coy
9. Imitated
10. Lengthy
11. Italian family
17. Oil-producing land
19. Guido's high note: 2 wds.
23. Drunkard
24. Before fix or sent
26. Flowery language
27. Mill or rummy
28. Up until now
32. Sock mender
33. Send out
34. On an equine
35. Object of abuse
36. Actor Vigoda
37. Clunkers
40. Quaker word
41. Paddles
42. Regulation
44. Mulberry bark
45. Dash
47. Modern: prefix



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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE  
Alzheimer's Day  
Care Center  
Tel: 5696910

Important  
Telephone  
Numbers

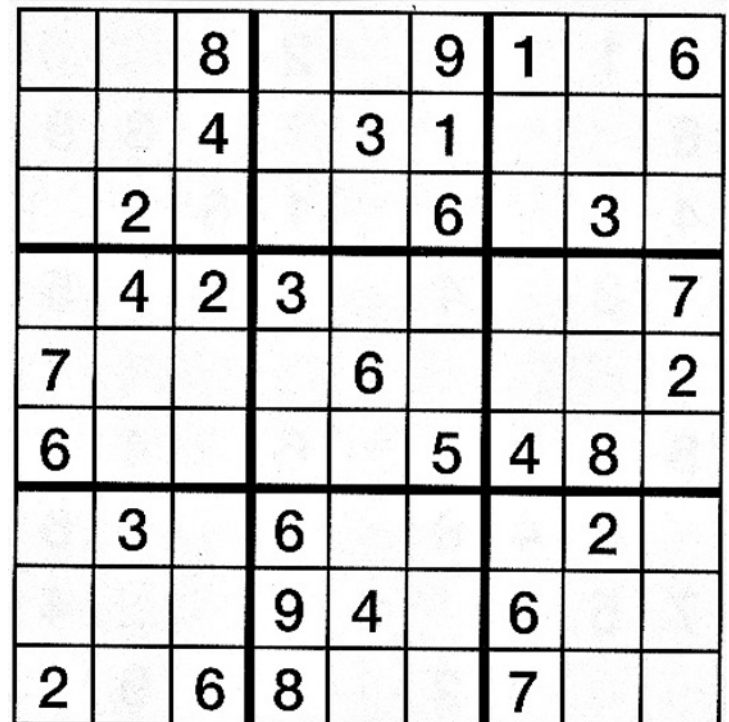
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Horacio Oduber Hospital  
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# Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	4	7	8	9	8	9	1	2
8	1	9	2	7	6	2	9	8
5	2	8	7	1	9	6	8	4
1	8	7	9	2	2	8	6	9
2	6	8	7	9	1	9	8	2
7	9	9	8	6	8	2	7	1
7	8	6	9	8	2	1	2	9
8	2	2	1	8	9	7	9	6
9	9	1	6	2	7	8	2	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Finance

### US Fed extends dollar lifeline for central banks

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The US Federal Reserve yesterday extended until August an emergency tool for other central banks to access dollars, amid market jitters and high demand for the safe haven greenback.

The deal, which had been due to expire in January, allows the central banks of Britain, Japan, Canada and Switzerland, as well as the European Central Bank, to exchange local currency for

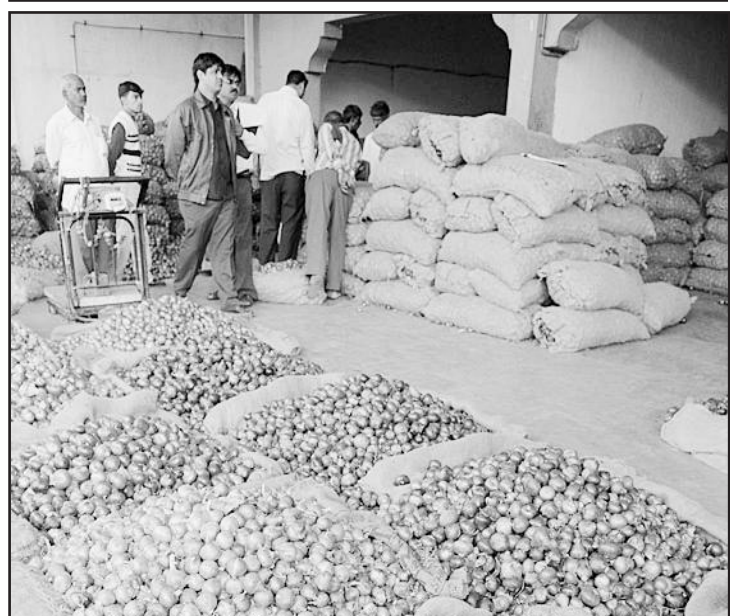
dollars.

The swap agreements were sealed in May, but as a debt crisis and slow economic recovery continues to roil markets and put pressure on the euro, the Fed said the temporary facility would be extended.

The so-called swap lines were set up during the 2008 financial crisis, as European and Japanese banks struggled to access dollars.



PARIS, France -- Pierre Kosciusko-Morizet (R), CEO of PriceMinister, one of France's leading e-commerce websites, and French Industry Minister Eric Besson (2dR) watch a screen displaying its website during a visit focused on e-commerce, on December 21, 2010 at the PriceMinister's headquarters in Paris. Heavy snowfalls in the last week could help online sales to rise in France for Christmas. (AFP PHOTO)



AHMEDABAD, India -- Indian traders walk past piles of onions at the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Ahmedabad. India suspended exports of onions, a key food staple, after prices of the vegetable soared, adding to the government's inflation woes. (AFP PHOTO)

## Copper prices hit record high

LONDON, England (AFP) - Copper prices surged to a record peak yesterday on the back of upbeat Chinese data and after a key Chilean mine halted its exports.

In trade on the London Metal Exchange, copper for delivery in three months' time hit 9,392 dollars per ton.

"Copper has continued to rise this morning on supportive Chinese trade data and news that Collahuasi had called force majeure on concentrate shipments," said Barclays Capital analysts in a note to clients.

"The full and final data set for Chinese base metals No-

vember trade data paints an encouraging picture. Imports of all the metals increased -- apart from nickel -- with the rise in copper and tin particularly noteworthy."

Meanwhile, Chile's massive Collahuasi copper mine on Monday suspended exports following a ship-loading crane accident that killed three workers at the port where its concentrate is shipped.

"Collahuasi has declared a force majeure on its contracts of copper concentrate," said mine spokeswoman Bernardita Fernandez, using the phrase for a contract suspension due

to circumstances beyond a firm's control.

The world's third largest copper mine produces around three percent of the world's copper and is located near the coastal city of Iquique, in far northern Chile.

The industrial metal is used in plumbing, heating, electrical and telecommunications wiring.

Elsewhere in commodity markets yesterday, sugar hit the highest level in 30 years and coffee struck a 13-year peak, as both raw materials were lifted by keen demand and limited supplies

## Ernst and Young charged with Lehman fraud

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - New York's attorney general yesterday charged accounting firm Ernst & Young with fraud for allegedly helping Lehman Brothers conceal billions of dollars in debt prior to the bank's collapse.

In a lawsuit, New York attorney general and incoming governor Andrew Cuomo charged Ernst & Young with helping Lehman Brothers remove tens of billions of dollars in securities from its balance sheet "in order to deceive the public about Lehman's true liquidity condition."

The alleged fraud was prac-

ticed seven years prior to the 2008 collapse, it said in a statement.

According to Cuomo's office, the securities were sold to European banks in return for cash which was used to pay down debts and improve the balance sheet, "while failing to disclose to the investing public the obligation to repurchase the securities at a higher price."

"This practice was a house-of-cards business model designed to hide billions in liabilities in the years before Lehman collapsed," Cuomo said in a statement.

"Just as troubling, a global

accounting firm, tasked with auditing Lehman's financial statements, helped hide this crucial information from the investing public."

"Our lawsuit seeks to recover the fees collected by Ernst & Young while it was supposed to be using accountable, honest measures to protect the public," Cuomo said.

New York-based Lehman Brothers was one of the leading international banks before it was forced to declare bankruptcy in September 2008 due to an acute lack of cash, which accelerated the meltdown of the US economy.

## Oil prices strike new two-year high

LONDON, England (AFP) - Oil hit another two-year high yesterday in volatile thin trade, boosted by a weak dollar and freezing weather in Europe and the United States, traders said.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in February jumped to 93.43 dollars per barrel -- the highest level since October 2008. It later stood at 93.33 dollars, up 59 cents from Monday's closing level.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for February, added 25 cents to 89.62 dollars.

"Brent remained strong and hit a two-year high today, following cold weather conditions across Europe that increased the demand for oil," said Sucden analyst Myrto

Sokou. "It seems that there is some technical buying in the oil market as we are approaching the year-end."

Colder weather in the European continent and northeastern United States has boosted expectations for heating fuel demand ahead of the Christmas break, helping push up oil prices.

"Brent has reached the 93-dollars-a-barrel mark for the first time in 26 months," Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch noted.

"As trading volumes get thinner, we may well see erratic and rather incomprehensible price movements at times."

"The cold winter weather in Europe can only partly explain the rise in crude oil prices," added Fritsch.

The market also found support from a weaker dollar, which makes dollar-priced oil cheaper for buyers using stronger currencies. In turn, that tends to stimulate demand and prices.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

TIRE	SHADE	GARS
ODEA	PANES	ABUT
PENTHOUSES	LEDA	
SAT	OIL	WAS
DEL	TAYLOR	
RICER	MIN	EVADE
ALOE	BAN	BEATER
YON	OUTCAST	ITA
ENTERS	ASA	FOES
DARED	ANI	GENRE
ALERTS	BIN	
SOD	REO	BAL
ARID	INTERACTED	AMO
LACE	NAIVE	AERO
ANTS	SLAYS	YSER



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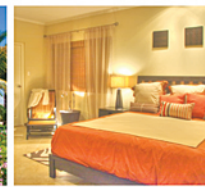
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## Kroket is on the look-out for friends and family members



We would like to introduce Kroket to you, one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Kroket

was found wandering in San Nicolas, together with his mother and some other donkeys, when he was just one year old. As traffic is a killer, Kroket had to be caught; he had been injured already. That injury, a large, gaping wound, had probably been caused by dog bites.

As soon as Kroket came to us, we took him to the vet. There he was anaesthetized

and his wound was stitched up. Kroket needed the anaesthesia, because he was wild indeed.

And that wildness stayed even when he was recovering from his injury until he was put together with donkey Mocca. That turned out to be a golden choice, because Mocca protected Kroket and that was what the one-year old needed among such a large herd of donkeys. Mocca and Kroket have been inseparable ever since and together they enjoy life to the fullest.

Kroket has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way he can be recognized and all his medical information is on it. The donkeys at the shelter are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called.

Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers of the shelter are now looking for people who wish to adopt Kroket. He will stay at the shelter, of course; the only thing that is needed is that AWG. 30,- per month is paid for his keep. In this way you

help support this wonderful donkey as well as the shelter. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website.

Please call the shelter at 595-2933 and become Kroket's new family member; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website [www.arubadonkey.org](http://www.arubadonkey.org) or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025.

Please help!

**Fantasea at the Royal Plaza**



# Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took



from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with

buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval Inter-



a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so

national to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, house-keeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.







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## Red Moon: Lunar eclipse makes memorable solstice

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Sky-gazers with a clear view in North America and Europe were greeted with a celestial treat in the early morning hours yesterday, as a unique total lunar eclipse transformed the Moon pink, coppery or even a blood red.

Coinciding eerily with the northern hemisphere's mid-winter solstice -- for the first time in almost four centuries -- the eclipse showed the Sun, the Earth and its satellite as they directly aligned, with the Moon swinging into the cone of shadow cast by its mother planet.

Despite being in shadow, the Moon did not become invisible, though, as there is still residual light that is deflected towards it by our atmosphere.

Most of this refracted light is in the red part of the spectrum and as a result the Moon, seen from Earth, turns a reddish, coppery or orange hue, sometimes even brownish.

NASA's veteran eclipse expert Fred Espenak explained that while the entire event was to be visible from North America, Greenland and Iceland, western Europe sees the beginning stages before moonset and western Asia gets the later stages after moonrise.

Two factors affect an eclipse's colour and brightness, said the US astronomy magazine Sky & Telescope.

"The first is simply how deeply the Moon goes into the umbra. The center of the umbra is much darker than its edges," it says. "The other factor is the state of Earth's atmosphere along the sunrise-sunset line. If the air is very clear, the eclipse is bright. But if a major volcanic eruption has polluted

the stratosphere with thin haze, the eclipse will be dark red, ashen gray, or blood-black."

Lunar eclipses have long been associated with superstitions and signs of ill omen, especially in battle.



The Moon turns red in Reykjavik, Iceland.

The defeat of the Persian king Darius III by Alexander the Great in the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BC was foretold by soothsayers when the Moon turned blood-red a few days earlier.

And an eclipse is credited with saving the life of Christopher Columbus and his crew when they were stranded without supplies on the coast of Jamaica.

According to legend, Columbus, looking at an astronomical almanac compiled by a German mathematician, realised that a total eclipse of the Moon would occur on February 29, 1504. He called the native leaders and warned them if they did not help, he would make the Moon disappear the following night.

The last total lunar eclipse took place on February 21 2008. Next year, says Espenak, will see two: on June 15 and December 10.

A solar eclipse happens when the Moon swings between the Earth and the Sun.





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<b>REGULAR OPENING HOURS</b> Monday-Thursday: 10:00am - 10:00pm		
<b>New Year's Eve</b> <i>December 31</i> 10:00am - 6:00pm	<b>New Year's Day</b> <i>January 1</i> Closed	<b>Sunday</b> <i>January 2</i> 5:00pm - 10:00pm

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## Anelka, Henry hold out on World Cup bonuses

PARIS (AFP) - Nicolas Anelka and Thierry Henry are the only two members of France's disgraced World Cup team not to have forfeited their bonuses from the tournament, a French Football Federation (FFF) source told AFP on Tuesday.

"They are the last two," the source said.

FFF president Fernand Duchaussoy announced last month that the 23-man France squad had agreed to forfeit their bonuses linked to the use of their image rights at the tournament in South Africa.

"A lot of them have signed, it's moving forward," Duchaussoy had said.

Chelsea striker Anelka is currently serving out an 18-match ban after being sent home in disgrace from the World Cup after a foul-

mouthed tirade at then coach Raymond Domenech leading to his teammates' infamous training strike.

"We haven't discussed it particularly. If there's the slightest hope it's more on Henry's side. Anelka, it would amaze me if he gives in," the source added.

Henry, France's all-time leading scorer, played a substitute's role at the World Cup and is now playing in the United States with the New York Red Bulls.

Domenech was sacked after overseeing France's first-round exit but Duchaussoy said the terms of his dismissal did not include an agreement to renounce his bonus, and they "could not prevent him" receiving it.

"He hasn't received them (bonus), but we can't use them," added the FFF boss.

## Pakistan stars ignored again for IPL

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Pakistan's cricketers will continue to miss out on the Indian Premier League bonanza after none of them were included in the auction for next year's money-spinning event, organisers said Tuesday.

No Pakistani featured in a list of 416 players whose services will be auctioned in Bangalore on January 8-9 for the fourth edition of the Twenty20 tournament, which is to be held in April and May.

Pakistani cricketers took part in the inaugural IPL in 2008, but were forced out of the 2009 edition due to security concerns in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, and were then ignored for the

2010 tournament.

An IPL official said the Pakistan Cricket Board had not forwarded any names for the January auction.

"The rules stipulate that a player must apply through his home board if he wanted to be put up for the auction. No names were received from Pakistan," the official told AFP.

Some top stars from other countries opted out. The Australian trio of captain Ricky Ponting, his deputy Michael Clarke and fast bowler Mitchell Johnson chose to give the event a miss.

Other notable absentees include former Australian stars Matthew Hayden and Glenn McGrath.

## Teen titan Noh to aim for Major glory



KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Teen Korean golf star Noh Seung-Yul says he hopes to become the second Asian to win a Major, following in the footsteps of compatriot Yang Yong-Eun who sprang a shock upset over Tiger Woods in the 2009 PGA Championship.

Noh became Asia's youngest ever Order of Merit champion at the age of 19 years and 204 days in 2010 after driving his way to one victory and four other top-10s during a sparkling season which also saw him post two impressive performances at the Majors.

It culminated an amazing rise to the top for Noh, who made his entry onto the Asian Tour after earning his card from Qualifying School in 2008 as a 16-year-old and went on to win his maiden professional title the same year.

"To become the youngest Asian Tour number one, it's very nice," said Noh, who was unable to attend Sunday's awards gala after undergoing corrective laser eye surgery.

"But in the future, there may be other younger players who will become younger than me at 19 years old to win the Order of Merit," he said.

"In five years time, I want

to start contending in the Majors. I am not in a hurry but I would like to become the second Asian to win a Major.

"The Order of Merit victory will get me into the British Open next year and if I stay in the top-100 in the world, I will also qualify for the PGA Championship and I will try to qualify for the US Open as well."

Noh said competing on the Asian Tour helped him sharpen his professional teeth where impressive displays earned him praise from his peers and the likes of Greg Norman and Pádraig Harrington.

"Playing on the Asian

Tour helped me a lot as we play in different countries and different courses," said the Korean.

"I had to adapt to the changes in grass, food and travelling which I think is important for a golfer."

Noh is setting his sights on Europe for 2011.

"Next year, I want to focus on trying to win in Europe. I would also like to play on the US Tour as I think all the top players want to play there," he said.

Norman, Australia's greatest ever player, said of Noh: "He's an impressive young player. He's got a big future."

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## Injured Romo done for season



DALLAS (AFP) - The Dallas Cowboys put quarterback Tony Romo on injured reserve Tuesday, officially ending his season almost two months after he broke his left collarbone.

The Cowboys had avoided making the move with a view to bringing Romo back for the last two games of the season - Saturday's game at Arizona and the season finale at Philadelphia.

The Cowboys perhaps decided it wasn't worth risking Romo as they have been

eliminated from playoff contention.

Backup Jon Kitna has been a solid stand-in, and the 39-year-old veteran is expected to start the Cowboys' last two games.

Romo was hurt in Dallas' loss to the New York Giants on October 25, a defeat that dropped the Cowboys to 1-5.

Romo had just thrown the ball when he took a hard, clean hit from New York's Michael Boley, hitting the ground with his left shoulder.

## Bears roar into playoffs by routing Favre's Vikings

MINNEAPOLIS (AFP) - Devin Hester set an NFL record with his 14th career kick return touchdown and Jay Cutler threw three touchdown passes Monday to power Chicago past Minnesota 40-14 and into the NFL playoffs.

The Bears won their third NFC North division title in six years but the first since 2006, improving to 10-4 and taking control of their destiny when it comes to claiming a first-round playoff bye and a home-field edge in round two.

"It's special," Cutler said. "We're not done yet. We just have to keep winning."

Brett Favre, the 41-year-old Minnesota quarterback ruled out by a right shoulder injury two days earlier, made a surprise start for the Vikings and threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Percy Harvin on the game's opening drive.

"I probably should have gone straight through the tunnel (off the field) after that," Favre said. "At least I gave it a try."

But Favre suffered a concussion when he was slammed to the turf 3:33 into the second quarter by Chicago rookie defender Corey Wootton and slowly rose before walking off the field for what might be the last time in his career.

"Just (Favre) being a little foggy when we were talking about situations with him, we knew then it probably wouldn't be a good idea for him to go back in," Vikings coach Leslie Frazier said.

All-time NFL passing leader Favre's unexpected



**Devin Hester #23 of the Chicago Bears is congratulated by quarterback Jay Cutler #6 after scoring a touchdown against the Minnesota Vikings**

start added to the drama of the first outdoor game in Minnesota in 29 years.

It was played in cold and slick conditions with wet snow falling at a college stadium used because the Vikings' usual domed home saw its roof collapse due to heavy snow 10 days ago.

But the overwhelming performance by the Bears stole the show. Cutler had a 67-yard touchdown pass to Johnny Knox and a 15-yard

touchdown throw to Hester to give Chicago a 17-7 half-time edge

Hester, in only his fifth NFL season, ran back the second half opening kickoff 79 yards to the Minnesota 6-yard line to set up the second of Robbie Gould's four field goals, then made history on a punt return two minutes later.

Hester returned a punt 64 yards for a touchdown 2:54 into the third quarter for his 14th career kickoff or punt return touchdown, breaking the record he shared with former Washington standout Brian Mitchell, who appeared in 149 more games than the 74 Hester has played.

"It felt great. It's a big weight off my back and for my teammates," Hester said. "We've been closer and closer each week to breaking this record. For us to do it the same week we win the division championship, it was great."

"Coaches told me I would never be anything more than a kick and punt return guy. I am a kickoff and punt guy, but I'm the best to ever do it. Don't dwell on this record breaking one 'cause there's going to be more I guarantee you."



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## Suspended Salman Butt wants hearing deferred

KARACHI (AFP) - Pakistan's suspended former captain Salman Butt said Tuesday he asked an anti-corruption tribunal to put off a hearing next month so he can deal with any possible criminal proceedings in London.

The 26-year-old, along with pacemen Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Aamer, was provisionally suspended by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on charges of spot-fixing during Pakistan's Lord's Test against England in August.

The trio face an ICC tribunal in Doha from January 6-11, which will decide whether the suspension turns into a ban or they are absolved of the charges.

"I have requested the hear-

ing to be put off so that I can settle the possible case in London and the ICC tribunal will hold a tele-conference on Wednesday to take a decision on my request," Salman told AFP.

The trio face a potential criminal case from Britain's Crown Prosecution Service, which received two reports from Scotland Yard police who raided the Pakistani team's hotel in London.

British newspaper the News of the World claimed several Pakistani players took money to obey orders from an alleged book-maker Mazhar Majeed at Lord's.

Salman said British-based lawyer Yasin Patel will fight his case in Doha and other lawyers helped him send a

reply to the ICC.

"Patel will be my lawyer but we want to settle the Crown Prosecution case first, if it is initiated, and then fight the ICC charges," said Salman.

Aamer and Asif do not intend to seek to delay the ICC case.

"We want to attend the Doha hearing," Aamer's lawyer Shahid Karim told AFP.

"Maybe Salman's lawyer needs time to prepare for the case but we want to attend the January hearing."

Salman last week reiterated his innocence.

"I have not done anything such as this (spot-fixing) in all my life or cricketing career," Salman told Sky television. "I hope I will be cleared and will play for my country again."

## Dutchman Robben to return against Wolfsburg

MUNICH (AFP) - Bayern Munich coach Louis van Gaal said Tuesday he was counting on Arjen Robben returning to action for the first Bundesliga game after the winter break against Wolfsburg on January 15.

The Dutchman has not played since returning from the World Cup in South Africa with a torn hamstring.

"He's very good in training and he feels absolutely no pain," said van Gaal.

"He's very impatient to

play, it's normal after six months out, but he has to wait until January 15."

Robben will feature in a friendly against a German regional side on January 12 and if he holds up will play for up to 30 minutes against Wolfsburg.

But van Gaal ruled out the 26-year-old playing during Wednesday's German Cup tie against Stuttgart. "If I do that I think that Dr. Muller-Wohlfahrt would have a heart attack," joked the Dutch coach.



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